

**New Program Proposal  
Associate Degree in Health Sciences  
Major in Physical Therapist Assistant  
Horry-Georgetown Technical College  
at the Grand Strand Campus**

**Summary**

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate Degree in Health Sciences with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant at the Grand Strand campus, to be implemented in Fall 2007.

The purpose of the proposed program is to prepare students to successfully complete the licensure requirements as a Physical Therapist Assistant, so that they can meet the demands of employers in Horry-Georgetown Technical College's service area for this occupation.

The State Technical College System Board approved the new program on July 25, 2006, and the proposal was received by the Commission on June 6, 2006. The proposal was reviewed, and approved, by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) at its meeting on October 11, 2006.

According to the proposal, the need for Physical Therapist Assistants has increased in Horry-Georgetown Technical College's service area in response to the growth in both the general and retiree populations which have increased the demand for qualified health care professionals in the area. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 44 percent increase in physical therapist assistant jobs nationally during the period of 2002 through 2012 due to the increased number of individuals with disabilities or limited function, and the increasing use of physical therapist assistants to reduce the cost of therapeutic services. According to the proposal, in a recent survey of 50 health care employers to determine employment availability, Horry-Georgetown Technical College documented an estimate of 88 full-time and 61 part-time physical therapist assistant positions which will be available from 2006 to 2008 in the College's service area.

Although the proposed program is designed primarily as a terminal degree, Horry-Georgetown Technical College will seek articulation with Coastal Carolina University's Interdisciplinary Studies Bachelor of Science degree and the Medical University of South Carolina's Bachelor of Health Sciences degree for this program, as options for career advancement.

The closest institution with an academic program for physical therapist assistants is Trident Technical College, which is a 115 mile commute. Two other technical colleges offer the program currently, and another one was approved to offer it in May 2006 by the Commission.

To gain admission into this program, the proposal states that students must be at least 18 years old, meet the general guidelines for admission to the College, provide official high school and college transcripts, and have satisfactory ACT, COMPASS, or SAT Test Scores. In the case where minimum placement test scores are not achieved, students are required to complete a developmental studies course sequence. Minimum test scores for admission to the program are as follows:

<b>Test Score: Mathematics</b>	<b>Test Score: English/Verbal</b>
ACT 21	ACT 19
Compass Algebra 46	Compass Reading 87
SAT 440	SAT 480

Total estimated headcount enrollment in Fall 2007 is estimated to be 32 (32 FTE) increasing to 54 (54 FTE) in Fall 2009.

The proposed program will require 78 credit hours of academic coursework, including the addition of 15 new courses to Horry-Georgetown Technical College's 2007-2008 course catalog. Implementation of the program will not require the addition of new courses to the SBTCE catalog of approved courses.

The College will seek candidacy status for the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accreditation for the proposed physical therapist assistants program prior to program implementation. It is expected that CAPTE accreditation will be awarded following the second year of program implementation, based upon CAPTE candidacy and accreditation guidelines. Licensure of Physical Therapist Assistants is required to practice this occupation in South Carolina. The program will seek approval of the South Carolina State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners since only graduates of an approved program may take the licensure examination.

Two new full-time faculty will be hired to deliver the program. Total personnel dedicated to teaching will be two (2.0 FTE) faculty, one (0.10 FTE) administrator, and one (0.1 FTE) staff member providing clerical support.

No new additional Physical Plant support will be needed for this program. The proposed program will be located on Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Grand Strand Campus in the Healthcare Education Center, which is currently undergoing a

major \$11 million renovation. No unique cost will be required or requested from the State.

New equipment will be purchased totaling \$57,821. Additional library materials will be required to implement this program. According to the proposal, the library at the Grand Strand campus will house the periodicals and books required for this program. Horry-Georgetown Technical College plans to acquire books, serials and audio-visual materials totaling \$17,350 in the first three years of the program.

In the first year, estimated costs will be \$677,515, rising to \$1,052,230 in the third year. New costs during the first three years of the program are estimated to be \$460,348 including \$351,777 for faculty salaries, \$57,821 in equipment needs, and \$16,000 for supplies, \$17,350 for library resources and \$17,400 for accreditation.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the State, and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first three years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

These data demonstrate that if Horry-Georgetown Technical College meets the projected student enrollments shown in the proposal, the new program will not cover costs by the third year (2009-10) of the program. Nevertheless, the College has given assurances that it has the resources to offer the program with quality.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
2007-08	\$677,515	\$0	<b>\$677,515</b>	N/A	\$109,641	<b>\$109,641</b>
2008-09	\$1,052,230	\$0	<b>\$1,052,230</b>	\$251,518	\$170,421	<b>\$421,939</b>
2009-10	\$1,052,230	\$0	<b>\$1,052,230</b>	\$390,229	\$170,421	<b>\$560,649</b>

In summary, Horry-Georgetown Technical College proposes to offer a new a program leading to an Associate Degree in Health Sciences with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant at the Grand Strand campus, to be implemented in Fall 2007, with

the goal of preparing students to successfully complete the licensure requirements and become employed in the College's service area as entry-level physical therapist assistants.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Horry-Georgetown Technical College's proposed program leading to the Associate Degree in Health Sciences with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant, to be implemented in Fall 2007, at the Grand Strand campus, provided that no additional "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided that Horry-Georgetown Technical College complete articulation agreements with Coastal Carolina University and the Medical University of South Carolina as stated in the Committee meeting.